

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
and
U. S. Department of Commerce
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
and
Agricultural Extension Service
Of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 3-16-54 - 11:00 A.M.

Week Ending 3-15-54

WEATHER Average temperatures were near normal for the week, with warm weather during the first half and cold during the latter half. Several days were rather windy. A bad dust storm occurred over the southwestern portion of the State on the 11th. A general storm on the 12-13th brought heavy snow to the northern portion of the State, except for freezing rain over much of the northeast. Snow was only light in the south-central and southeast, and light to moderate in the southwest. Strong northerly winds drifted the snow badly. Most roads were closed over the northwestern and north-central portions of the State. Ice over the northeastern portion of the State, particularly the area around Norfolk, caused much damage to wires and made highway travel very hazardous.

CROPS High winds last week caused some further damage to wheat in western Nebraska. Moisture in the form of snow prevented serious damage. The snow was heavy in the Panhandle north of the Platte River and ranged from light to moderate south of the Platte River and in southwestern Nebraska. The benefit from the snow was spotted due to the high wind which caused snow to drift on fields that were bare. While the benefits of moisture to wheat varied, it brought some improvement since western Nebraska had had very little moisture since December 3.

Elsewhere in the wheat belt, precipitation in the form of rain or snow, was generally too light to be of material benefit but was ample to check damage from blowing. However, there were a few reports of soil blowing in the wheat fields. The rain and snow settled a lot of red dust, most of which probably came from Oklahoma. In Lincoln it turned daylight into dusk at noon.

The moisture and colder weather halted farm field work. A number of counties reported some oats had been seeded, and most farmers in the southern half of the State have their fields ready to plant as soon as the weather permits. Wet, cold soils in northeastern Nebraska delayed spring planting. North-central Nebraska received considerable snow which should benefit pasture land.

Most of the certified seed potatoes have already been sold. Shipment of table stock potatoes are light and prices have been so low that it may result in a decreased acreage this year. Dry edible beans and sugar beets may absorb the extra acreage. Reports on farm labor indicate that the supply ranges from a shortage of good farm hands to an ample supply in some of the counties.

LIVESTOCK Farmers were warned of the blizzard last week in sufficient time to care for livestock, so very few losses were reported. Supplies of hay and feed in the northern half of the State are generally reported ample but some shortage is expected in some of the southern counties. The demand for bred sows is still good but prices at the farm auctions have been a little lower. Most of the pasture land has received moisture during the past three weeks. Plans are underway for a cheese factory to be located in Ogallala.

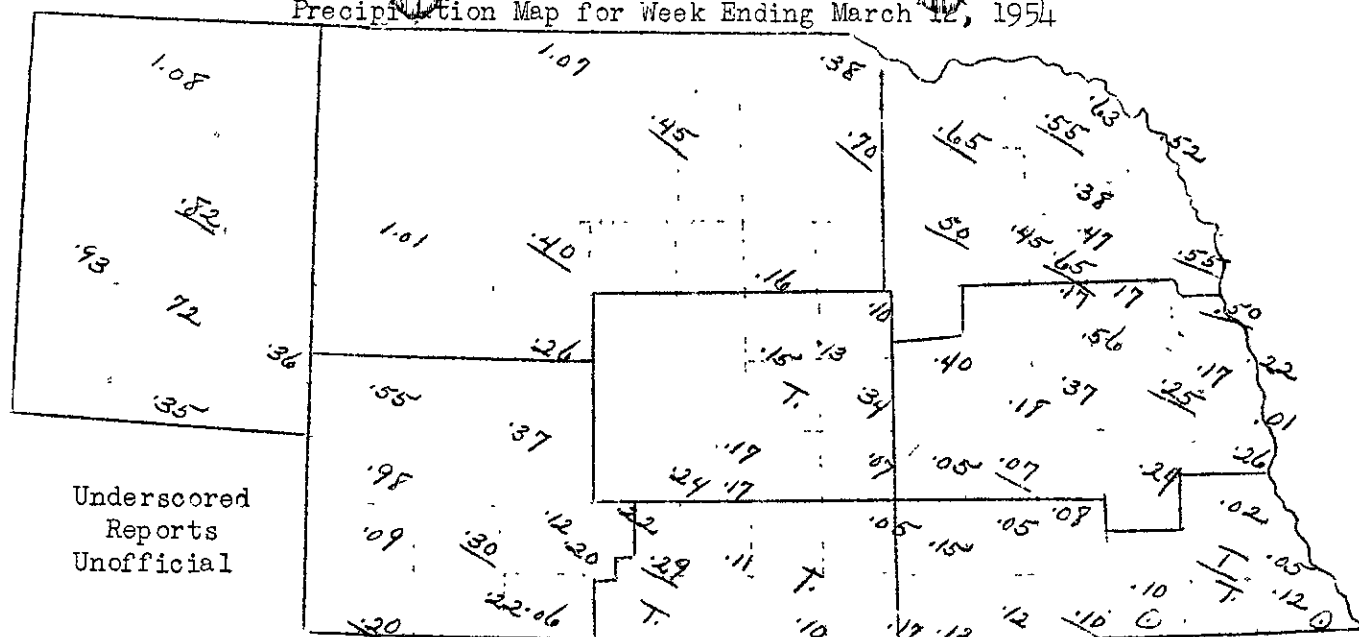
WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 15, 1954

<u>Eastern Division</u>		<u>Central Division</u>	<u>Western Division</u>
Grand Island	.07	Burwell	.16
Lincoln	.24	Lexington	.25
Norfolk	.45	North Platte	.37
Omaha	.22	Valentine	1.07
Sioux City	.52		

1250
3-16-54

Chadron 1.08
Imperial .09
Scottsbluff .93
Sidney .36

Precipitation Map for Week Ending March 12, 1954



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (for 24 hours ending in a.m.)

		March		9th		10th		11th		12th		13th		14th		15th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	64	30	63	40	68	43	59	24	29	8	23	- 3	34	9		
	Scottsbluff	68	31	63	37	69	38	54	24	27	7	29	2	32	12		
	Sidney	68	30	64	39	68	39	62	24	28	7	21	3	40	15		
N-C	Burwell	--	--	--	--	69	33	46	31	42	16	20	3	23	7		
	Valentine	64	34	--	--	68	43	46	31	29	11	17	- 2	22	4		
NE	Norfolk	53	33	48	35	55	28	--	--	--	--	20	8	21	3		
	Sioux City	50	34	50	34	43	30	37	31	35	21	23	10	24	10		
CEN.	Grand Island	55	28	55	36	66	34	51	36	43	19	23	10	28	13		
	Lexington	61	38	59	32	74	37	55	35	36	14	23	8	28	15		
E-C	Lincoln	53	40	54	39	63	31	53	37	39	22	26	15	28	14		
	Omaha	52	38	55	38	57	31	51	34	40	23	26	14	28	14		
SW	Imperial	70	33	68	41	70	37	65	29	40	12	23	6	35	16		
	North Platte	69	32	60	33	72	39	57	33	38	12	21	5	29	17		

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